

# Initial Battle in Republican Convention Won by Taft Forces, and Senator Elihu Root Elected Temporary Chairman, 558 to 502

## OPENING PROVES NON-SANGUINARY AS A PIE SOCIAL

First Session of Convention Sees Not a Solitary Homicide.

## SPECTATORS ARE DISAPPOINTED

Only Blood Spilled Is by Texas Delegate, Who Tries to Bite Top Off Bottle of Beer. Anti-Taft People Decide to Talk Enemies to Death.

BY SAMUEL G. BLYTHE.  
(Copyright, 1912.)  
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Chicago, Ill., June 18.—Much to the regret of some thousands of blood-thirsty spectators, there was not a solitary homicide at the first session of the convention. Not a drop of blood was spilled, except in the case of the Texas delegate who tried to bite the top off a bottle of beer and lacerated one of his lips. Otherwise all was non-sanguinary as a pie social.

Early in the proceedings it was clearly apparent the anti-Taft people had changed their reported tactics, and instead of murdering and otherwise mistreating the Taft men, had decided on a more lingering but just as effective manner of disposing of them, which was to talk them to death. The Taft men resented this to some extent and talked back. And, although some of the delegates grew groggy under the fierce verbal assault, no one succumbed, nor did any spectator get anything worse than a headache. Viewed as a gory spectacle, as an in-ardained illustration of the lengths to which earnest men will go to obtain their rights and protect the plain people in these equities guaranteed to them under the Constitution and by Francis J. Heney, the first day's proceedings were a distinct disappointment.

Falls to Kick Rosewater's Shins.  
Indeed, it was plainly apparent early in the day that Governor Hadley, the Roosevelt floor leader, so far from kicking the minute Chairman Rosewater in the shins, had sought else in mind than to treat him with scrupulous Missouri politeness, and that Chairman Rosewater, in turn, intended to be courteous, even chivalric, in his dealings with Governor Hadley. Three hundred policemen stood around and yawned their heads off, and the collection of assistant sergeants-at-arms spent most of their time borrowing cigarettes from one another, or proudly contemplating their navy badges.

Incited by the dire prediction of death and disaster that had been scattered abroad, the populace, as represented by those who had pulled enough to get tickets, came early to the hall and resolutely turned their thumbs down on evidence they neither desired nor would allow quarter. They expected a riot to start at the moment the flashlight picture was taken, and in a sense they were gratified, for a riot did start—a riot of conversation and so-called oratory. But that was the killing line. Not a gun barked for a head was cracked. All went as decorous as an intercollegiate debate. There were precedents instead of projectiles, alterations instead of assault. The harking being good, the shouting being bad, the days of John C. Fremont and Lowell had a goodly effect on the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln in 1864. They also harked back and harked forward in other regards for an almost interminable period, citing other events that had happened in former Republican National Conventions, and the spectators cheered and cheered, alternately chagrined, of course, because there was no gore, but out for a holiday and in a spirit of true American adaptability to circumstances, accepting language in lieu of lambskins. So the crowd had a good time, and all passed off pleasantly as could be expected, notwithstanding the alarming advance notices.

Their Hearts Chilled.  
There was a terrifying feature, however, that brought shivers to the hearts of those present on various occasions. Numerous of the orators, finding themselves at loss to proceed because of the clamor for action on the part of the delegates and spectators, cruelly threatened to stay there all summer if they were not allowed to continue speaking. This frightened threat had instant effect each time it was used. Unable to face this dread alternative, the crowd always lapsed into silence, permitted the platitude partisan to perorate and sped them to their seats with brief applause, and demanded a vote while the next man was preening himself for his oratorical flight.

Presently the announcer himself showed some mercy. He megaphoned

## ROOT DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH OF CONVENTION

Tells Why Republican Party Should Be Returned to Power.

## BEGS DELEGATES TO ACT IN UNISON

Chairman Prays That Individual Opinions Be Subordinated for Good of Party—Achievements of President Taft's Administration Recounted—Pledged to Uphold the Courts.

Chicago, June 18.—Senator Root's "keynote speech" as temporary chairman of the Republican convention was a comprehensive resume of the achievements of President Taft's administration. He began with a reference to the present struggle for control of the Republican party, and called upon the various members to subordinate their individual opinions and act in unison upon great questions upon which they agreed.

"Throughout our party's history," he said, "in each presidential election we have gone to the American people with the confident and just assertion that the Republican party is not a mere fortuitous collection of individuals, but a coherent and living force as an organization."

Referring to the work of President Taft's administration, Chairman Root referred to prosecutions under the pure food law, conservation of natural resources, economy in the public service and improvement of the army and navy. He referred to the refusal of the Democratic House to sanction two battleships this year, and said the question of whether the American navy should be permitted to fall back now stood between the Democratic House and the Republican Senate.

The construction of the Panama Canal he referred to as "greater than a Roman triumph." The chairman referred briefly to the foreign relations of the government under the present administration, and pointed to the steady growth of American trade abroad.

Senator Root spoke at some length upon the importance of the maintenance of American institutions. He said in part:

To the surprise of his assistants, the plank upon which the Colonel set most store is one which has so far figured simply in a letter from him to a private citizen. That is one calling for wholesale work on the Mississippi River, curbing its floods, and reclaiming its submerged areas. The plank will pledge the party to utilizing for this purpose the powerful organization that for another year will be at work on the Panama Canal, and the mass of machinery that has been used there will also be designed for the new project.

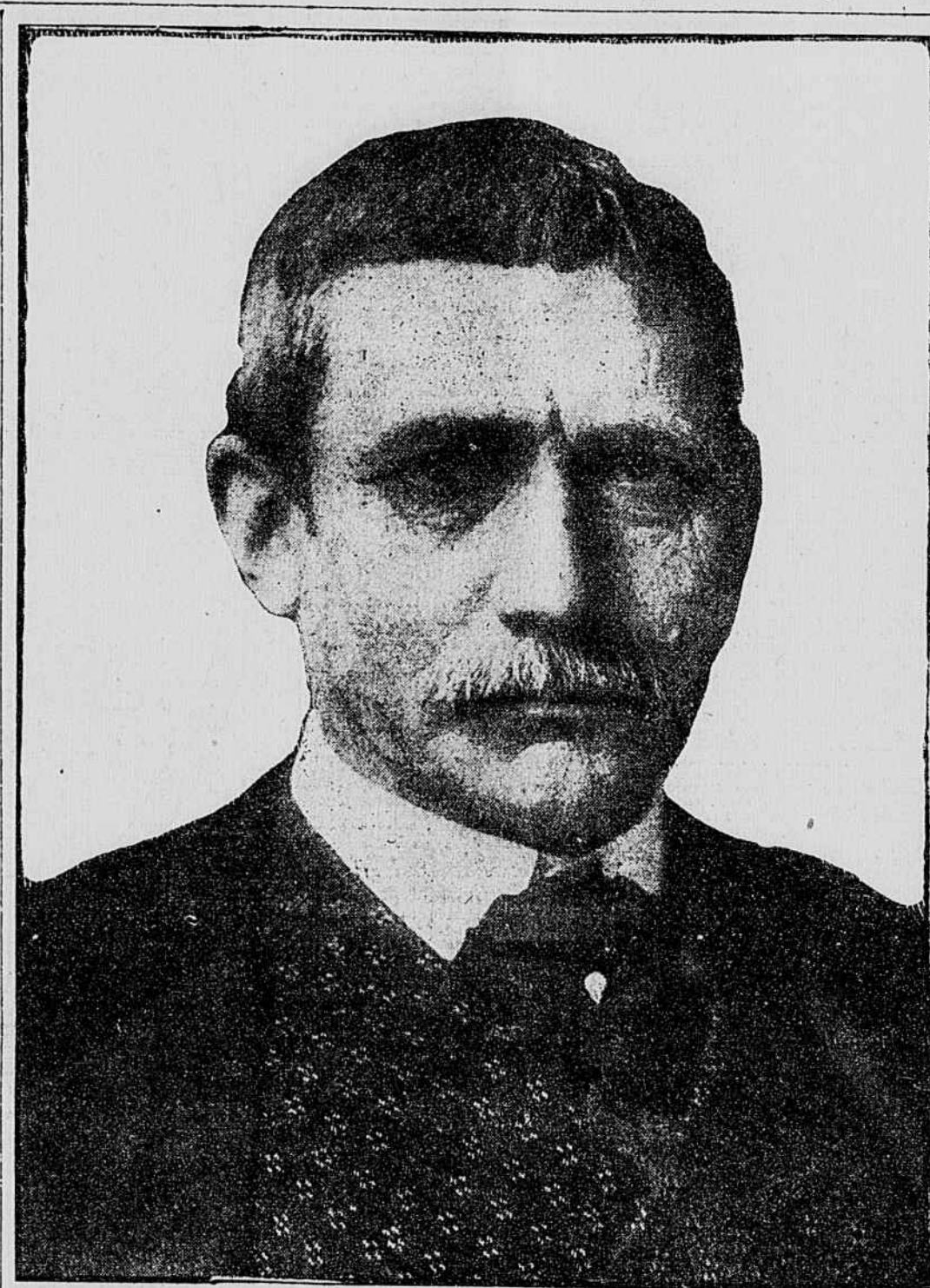
His Trust Program.  
Next in importance, as the Colonel now sees it, will be a plank promising further control of the trusts. This will be the only one of the three planks demanded by the Colonel that have the least relation to the subjects of the speeches in which he pleaded his right to lead the Republican party in its coming battle. To offset the President's record of convictions in trust prosecutions, the Colonel will put forward a plan for more peaceful control by means of an industrial commission—by Federal incorporation.

The third of the Colonel's planks comes as the greatest surprise to his lieutenants. This will be on the tariff, in which the Colonel has never shown the slightest interest. Realizing the need of outdoing in some way President Taft's earnest advocacy of tariff reductions to a point measuring difficulty in cost at home and abroad with a fair profit to the American manufacturer, the Colonel will drop out of consideration the question of the profit. His new tariff doctrine will be that protection is solely for the workingman, and he will declare that such was his original purpose with Alexander Hamilton and his immediate followers.

"We claim that we are entitled to a popular vote of confidence at the coming election because we have demonstrated that we are a party of affirmative construction, policies for the betterment and progress of our country in all the fields upon which the activity and influence of government can rightly enter."

"No government which must be administered by weak and fallible men can be perfect, but we may justly claim for our government under the Constitution that for a century and a quarter it has worked out the best results for individual liberty and progress in civilization yet achieved by governmental institutions."

"We will maintain the power and honor of the nation, but we will observe those limitations which the Constitution sets up for the preservation of local self-government. This country is so large and the conditions of life so varied that it would be intolerable to have the local and domestic affairs of our home communities, which involve no national rights, controlled by majorities made up in other States thousands of miles away, or



Elihu Root, temporary chairman of Republican convention, who delivered keynote address.

## VIRGINIANS GIVE BIG VOTE TO ROOT

Twenty-Two Support New York Senator and Two Stand by McGovern.

## THIS LINE-UP PREDICTED

Brady Says There Is Disposition to Give Fair Hearing to Contestants.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Chicago, Ill., June 18.—The Virginia delegation to the Republican National Convention stood by its colors today in the first test of strength in the convention hall and voted twenty-two for Root for chairman, and two for McGovern. This is the line-up forecasted by leaders of the delegation on the preceding day. The two delegates from the Fifth District voted for the Wisconsin Governor.

D. Lawrence Groner, of Norfolk, made one of the speeches seconding the nomination of Senator Root, and he made a good impression, his voice carrying well to all parts of the great hall.

Will Decide on Merits.  
Joseph P. Brady, of Richmond, secretary of the delegation, says there is a strong disposition among the members to give the Roosevelt contestants a fair and impartial hearing and to decide the question on its merits.

W. D. Goodwin, of Salt Lake City, Utah, formerly of Afton, Va., is here as the guest of his brother, H. C. Goodwin, who is one of the delegates from Virginia. The Goodwins are sons of the Hon. W. H. Goodwin, of Afton, who formerly was a member of the Virginia Legislature. W. C. Goodwin will return to his old home for a vacation.

Mrs. R. A. Fulwiler and young son are here enjoying the festivities of convention week.

FOR NORFOLK.  
DOUBLE TRACK, STONE BALLASTED, DUSTLESS LINE, 3 miles without a stop. C. & O. train leaving Richmond 12:00 noon daily. Other Fast Trains leave Richmond 10:00 A. M. and 4:00 P. M. Connects at Norfolk for Virginia Beach.

## How the States Voted for Temporary Chairman

Chicago, Ill., June 18.—The vote by States on roll call for temporary chairman was as follows:

State.	Dele-	McGov-
	gates.	ern.
Alabama	24	22
Arizona	6	8
Arkansas	18	17
California	28	24
Colorado	12	12
Connecticut	14	14
Delaware	6	6
Florida	12	12
Georgia	22	22
Idaho	8	8
Illinois	58	40
Indiana	30	20
Iowa	16	10
Kansas	20	18
Kentucky	26	23
Louisiana	20	20
Maine	12	12
Maryland	8	8
Massachusetts	36	18
Michigan	30	10
Minnesota	24	24
Mississippi	20	10
Missouri	36	16
Montana	8	8
Nebraska	16	10
Nevada	6	6
New Hampshire	8	8
New Jersey	28	28
New Mexico	8	2
New York	70	13
North Carolina	24	21
North Dakota	10	9
Ohio	48	14
Oklahoma	20	4
Oregon	10	3
Pennsylvania	76	12
Rhode Island	10	10
South Carolina	18	11
South Dakota	10	7
Tennessee	24	23
Texas	40	31
Utah	8	7
Vermont	8	2
Virginia	24	22
Washington	14	14
West Virginia	16	16
Wisconsin	26	13
Wyoming	6	6
Hawaii	6	6
Alaska	2	2
Dist. of Columbia	2	2
Philippines	2	2
Porto Rico	2	2
Total	1,078	562

\*Absent, 1.  
Not voting, 1 (Root).  
xHouser, 1.  
xW. S. Lauder, 9; Houser, 2; Senator Gronna, 1; not voting, 1 (McGovern).

## BETTER WARRIOR THAN A PROPHET

Roosevelt's Only Comment on Result of First Day's Struggle.

## HAS NO FEAR OF OUTCOME

His Lieutenants Are Satisfied He Cannot Be Beaten.

Chicago, June 18.—"I'm a better warrior than a prophet," said Colonel Roosevelt when he was asked his opinion of the outcome of the convention. That was all he would say to-night.

Mr. Roosevelt directed his own battle in the convention hall over a telephone wire. Hidden away in a room in his hotel, he spent most of the time with a receiver at his ear, listening to reports of his lieutenants and issuing orders in person. The wire over which Colonel Roosevelt gave his directions had no connection with any switchboard. Arrangements were so made that no person other than Colonel Roosevelt and the man at the Coliseum end of the wire could by any chance overhear the conversations.

When the convention had adjourned the Roosevelt leaders hastened back and began a series of conferences with their chief. Colonel Roosevelt's associates predicted confidentially that the fight would be won, although they guarded carefully the plans for tomorrow which were framed at to-night's conferences. They had with them tables of figures based on today's developments, which showed to their satisfaction that they could not be beaten. Colonel Roosevelt they said, was pleased with the showing made on the first day.

After the dinner hour a throng descended on the Roosevelt headquarters. By 9 o'clock the corridors and lobby of the hotel were filled with a solid, struggling mass of men and women. Police reserves were rushed to the place, but they could do little to move the crowd.

In the hall of the Roosevelt committee, the crowd was kept in lively spirits with a band concert, impromptu.

(Continued on Tenth Page.)

## COLONEL'S COHORTS ARE RUTHLESSLY TRAMPLED DOWN

End Comes After Day of Bitter Fighting, and While Advantage Apparently Is With President, Roosevelt Claims Final Victory.

## EVERY STEP OF WAY CONTESTED, AND IT REQUIRES FIVE HOURS TO FORCE PROGRAM THROUGH

From Start Convention Is Disorderly, and Speakers Are Howled Down and Compelled to Face Pandemonium of Cheers and Jeers From Partisans of Candidates—Hadley Moves Substitution of New Roll for One Bearing "Fraudulent" Names, but Is Ruled Out of Order—Contest on This Point Will Be Continued To-Day—Bolt Still Seems Far Distant.

Chicago, June 18.—Against the threats, charges and bitter invective of the Roosevelt forces, the Taft supporters in the Republican National Convention to-day put through the first portion of their program by electing Senator Elihu Root as temporary chairman.

In spite of the fact that Victor Rosewater, chairman of the national committee, consistently ruled out of order every motion made by the Roosevelt forces, it required more than five hours to reach a vote on the chairmanship.

The calling of the roll was beset with difficulties from the very first name on the list of delegates, but in the end when the tumult had died away, Senator Root was found to have won by a vote of 558 to 502 for Governor Francis E. McGovern, of Wisconsin, with fourteen scattering votes and four not voting.

To-night both the Taft and Roosevelt forces are claiming that this vote indicates that their candidate is absolutely sure to win.

The advantage appears to be with the President, however, for while he is sure to lose some of the votes that were cast for Senator Root, it is claimed that he will gain, if instructions are lived up to, some of the votes independently cast for McGovern. Those leaders who have been urging a compromise candidate ever since they arrived in Chicago are pointing to another angle in the figures, and claim that they show that it is essential to name a so-called "dark horse" to save the day for the Republican party.

While Mr. Root was made chairman to-day and managed to deliver his "keynote" speech, the fighting is to be renewed at 11 o'clock to-morrow, when the motion of the Roosevelt leaders to substitute a new list of delegates for those seated in some of the contested cases heard before the national committee is to be taken up as the unfinished business. No committees were named to-night and none will be until this motion to "purge" the convention of "fraudulent delegates" is disposed of. To-day they were defeated on a point of order, but the Roosevelt forces declare that parliamentary practice will not be permitted to stand in their way to-morrow.

The Roosevelt people and the Taft people carried out their programs as announced in advance almost to the letter. The Roosevelt people say to-night they are going to fight every inch of the way.

There were cries of "bolters" hurled at the Roosevelt delegates at times during the session, but the contingency of a bolt again to-night seemed to be far distant.

## No Picture of President.

For the first time in the history of the Republican National Conventions no picture of the President hung in the Coliseum, where to-day 1,078 delegates gathered to name a candidate for President and Vice-President, and to formulate a party platform.

The nervous tension due to general expectation of tumultuous scenes "from the drop of the hat" at the opening of the convention was very apparent on all sides.

Along the front row between the body of delegate seats and the platform a solid row of uniformed police, as early as 9:30 A. M., sat waiting for nobody knew what.

At exactly 10:15 the band broke in with "My Country 'Tis of Thee." By 10:30 A. M. there was a goodly sprinkling of people, including some of the New York, Mississippi and Texas delegations, in the hall, and still outside in the streets were hundreds of people more or less prominent in Republican councils, who found it impossible to get into the big hall. E. G. Lumsden, of Ohio, the veteran reading clerk of the national House of Representatives, and associate parliamentary for the convention, was at his place by the speaker's table an hour and a half before the time for opening business. Beside him was a stack of books on parliamentary law, and he was immersed in typewritten pages of opinions as to what the convention could or could not do without violating the parliamentary precepts of Thomas Jefferson and later authorities.

Long before noon the two official stenographers were in front of the platform familiarizing themselves with the position of delegates.

Chairman Rosewater arrived at the Coliseum at 11:15 and appeared on the stage apparently unrecognized by the delegates who had taken their seats. There was much confusion on the stage, but Rosewater soon was seen in conference with Senator Penrose and Harry S. New, of Indiana. Colonel New, kneeling at the front of the platform, reached over the

silk-covered chairs to shake hands with friends.

As former Vice-President Fairbanks entered the big hall a wave of applause that began when he showed inside the door swept across the hall as he made his way to his seat with the Indiana delegation.

He took a seat at the rear of the section, but James E. Watson, floor leader for the Taft forces, escorted him to a place at the head of the delegations while they cheered.

Fairbanks's new seat was directly in front of the speaker's stand.

The weather was exceedingly cool to-day—a sharp contrast to former convention years—and many of the delegates appeared in winter clothes and overcoats.

Congressman Murdock, of Kansas, a progressive leader, predicted there would be two conventions. He would not go into details.

When Colonel Roosevelt appeared at his headquarters he at once began the final conference with the leaders before the assembling of the convention. Asked whether he would attend the convention to-day, he said: "I haven't the least idea of going."

As the seats began to fill up the most marked sign of the grip the police intended to keep upon "the public peace" was given. The twenty patrolmen who had been sitting in the front row of delegates seats, stood up and "bent faced" so as to front upon the "arena" where so soon the bitterest factional struggle in recent political history was expected to break into action.

No Sort of Rhipple.

Thus far there had not been a ripple of any sort. The occasion for which the people here gathered might as well have been a horse show or theatrical performance. The proportion of women was comparatively small, and there was rather a marked absence of conspicuous gowns and millinery.

West Virginia now and then greeted a new arrival with the delegation yell, "Tab, rah, rah, West Virginia."

(Continued on Eighth Page.)